Washington LABOR MARKET

Washington State
Employment Security
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In cooperation with the
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Highlights

Zzzzz... Zzzzz... Zzzzz...

Washington's economy inched forward in February to little fanfare... but forward all the same. Nonfarm wage and salary employment in Washington grew 0.4 percent from January to February in seasonally-adjusted terms. This translated into a 8,100 worker gain. Growth was about the same in unadjusted terms at 0.3 percent. That reflected a 7,300 worker increase to push nonfarm employment to 2,156,600. Year-over-year growth was 2.1 percent in adjusted and non-adjusted terms, adding 44,300 new workers.

Overall, February in Washington was relatively nondescript as labor market activity goes. Employment moved in fairly typical fashion with milder than usual weather conditions generally

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sustaining job levels in construction, trade and services. Still, you gotta love it.

Perhaps most notable was the fact that Washington's nonfarm employment and unemployment rate rose simultaneously. This seeming contradiction is all part of the nature of economic turning points. Some call it the "darkness before the dawn" (though "darkness" is perhaps a bit strong).

Darkness Before the Dawn

Disparate patterns of nonfarm employment and unemployment rate activity can be puzzling, and certainly counterintuitive. But is it really such a contradiction? Not really. This is because the unemployment rate is a lagging economic indicator. It usually does not start to recede until after an economic recovery is underway. There are a couple of reasons.

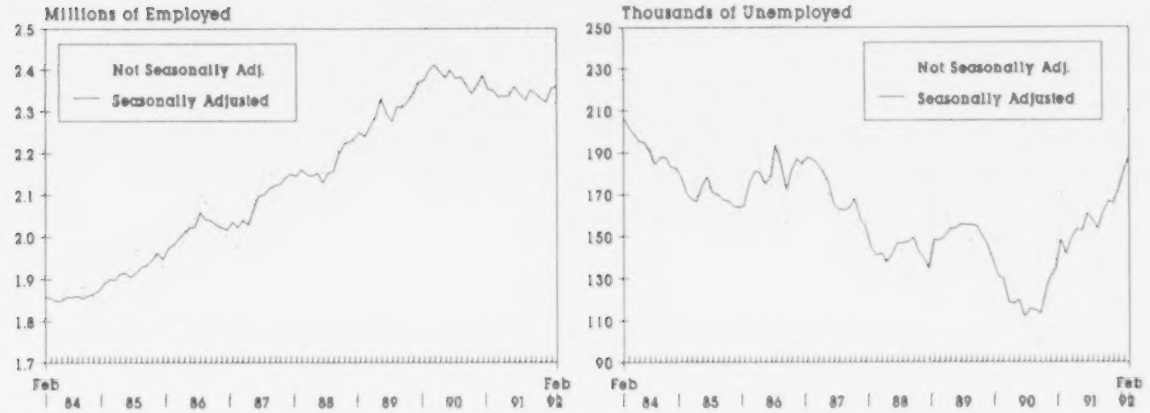
On the business side, firms may be reluctant to resume hiring until they are sure the rising demand they witness is for real. On the labor side people may not seriously begin looking for work until they are convinced the economy has bottomed out, that a recovery is underway, and that jobs will become available. Under these circumstances, the unemployment rate can increase even while the economy is expanding as these workers search for employment. This is essentially what's happening now in Washington.

This is not a unique phenomenon. In five of the eight recessions since World War II, the unemployment rate did not subside until 1 to 2 months after the recovery commenced. In the other three recessions, moreover, it continued to worsen for 5 to 11 months after the recovery began. How fast Washington's jobless rate improves is tied to the pace of economic recovery. And the current pattern shows a very slow but steady rate of growth.

Labor force activity will also determine the rate at which Washington's unemployment rate subsides. Many believe slow labor force growth (i.e., Baby Bust or Birth Dearth) kept unemployment rates down inordinately in this recession. Fewer new entrants into the labor force meant fewer people flooding the workforce and competing for scarce jobs. Washington felt some of this, but in-migration is

projected to continue at least a short while longer, possibly acting as a counterweight.

Washington State Total Resident Employment and Unemployment
February 1984 - February 1992



Source: Employment Security Department

LABOR FORCE AND UNEMPLOYMENT

Washington's seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate increased two-tenths of a percentage point in February to 7.4 percent. This was the highest since May 1987. The rate inched steadily upward as the state's economy slowed over the past 18 months. Indeed, nearly three percentage points have been added to Washington's jobless rate since mid-1990. Moreover, the rate gap favoring Washington over the nation has disappeared as the U.S. average of 7.3 percent in February was roughly comparable to that in Washington.

At the same time, Washington's nonfarm wage and salary employment rose over the month by adding 7,300 workers. Most of this reflected normal seasonal gains, especially in services (+3,900) and government (+8,700). Services increases were concentrated in educational services (+1,000), health services (+300) and amusements and recreation (+1,000). Gearing up for the winter quarter at public colleges and universities boosted state government employment by 5,100. Meanwhile, school levy elections added 3,500 workers to local government payrolls, though only temporarily.

Compared to a year ago, Washington's nonfarm wage and salary employment was up 44,300 from last February. Half of that growth came in services (+22,000), while a third came in government (+16,200). Construction and trades were up 800 and 6,300, respectively. Holding down overall gains was manufacturing which fell 4,800, largely in primary metals (-700), industrial machinery (-1,400) and transportation equipment (-2,900), including aerospace.

Washington's growing nonfarm employment in February might be considered notable for the fact that it reflected growth both monthly and over the year *after* being seasonally-adjusted. Seasonally-adjusted figures show the state adding 8,100 workers in February, a 0.4 percent increase over the month. Washington has added roughly 20,000 workers (seasonally adjusted) in the first two months on this year.

A quick look at Washington's resident civilian labor force indicates 0.8 percent growth in February on a not seasonally-adjusted basis. Over the year, it grew 2.2 percent. Both are somewhat low by historic standards, but their positive postures are nothing to pooh-pooh.

Resident Civilian Labor Force
Employment and Unemployment in Washington State

	Feb 1992 *Preliminary*	Jan 1992 *Revised*	Feb 1991
Seasonally Adjusted:			
State Unemployment Rate	7.5%	7.2%	5.7%
National Unemployment Rate	7.3%	7.1%	6.5%
Not Seasonally Adjusted:			
Resident Civilian Labor Force	2,534,100	2,514,600	2,480,300
Employment	2,323,500	2,309,300	2,316,000
Unemployment	210,600	205,300	164,300
Unemployment Rate	8.3%	8.2%	6.6%

Source: Employment Security Department; Bureau of Labor Statistics

AREA TRENDS

Central Puget Sound Sets the Pace

By and large, Washington's most populous metropolitan counties - King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish - came in at or below the statewide unemployment rate in February.

Nevertheless, these counties - namely those representing central Puget Sound - served as principal economic drivers for the state in general.

Not seasonally adjusted data for King, Kitsap, Pierce and Snohomish counties combined show that those counties' jobless rates rose 1.7 percentage points from February 1991 to February 1992, mirroring the statewide increase. This pattern suggests that those four counties largely directed the overall state unemployment rate.

Of Washington's metro areas, the Seattle PMSA and Yakima MSA posted the lowest and highest jobless rates, respectively, at 6.3 percent and 15.4 percent in February. By the same token, the Yakima MSA also showed big improvement in its unemployment rate by shedding nearly one-and-a-half percentage points over the month. The Tacoma MSA and Bellingham MSA experienced the greatest upticks at 0.4 percent over the month. The Spokane MSA's rate was virtually unchanged.

The Tri-Cities MSA had the smallest yearly increase at just over a point (due largely to a half point decline in Franklin County's jobless rate) while the Vancouver MSA saw the greatest year-over-year gain at nearly two-and-a-half percentage points.

Back to the Farm

The unemployment rate eased by the slightest margin in agriculture-based eastern Washington to 11.5 percent in February from 11.6 percent a month earlier. It wasn't spectacular, but it was better than the movement in the metropolitan areas. The ease was propelled by spring planting activity that saw monthly jobless rates fall significantly in farm-based Adams, Douglas, Garfield, Grant and Walla Walla counties.

The jobless rate decline, however, was not as pronounced as the previous year when it fell more than a half of a percentage point. This might be due to less favorable economic conditions and possibly a relatively mild winter that masked an otherwise more distinct seasonal transition.

Some agriculturally-based counties led the state with the lowest jobless rates for the month. Whitman County - with Washington State University as a weighty influence - continued to boast the lowest jobless rate at 3.7 percent in February. Garfield County, as a regional health care center, had the second-lowest jobless rate at 5.1 percent. At the same time, some agriculture-based counties were among those with the highest jobless rates: Adams at 20.8 percent and Klickitat at 18.6 percent.

Palpable Economic Pain

Timber-dependent areas continued to experience the highest unemployment rates in Washington at a combined 13.3 percent in February, up from 13.0 percent in January. Oddly enough, monthly jobless rates fell in some timber-dependent counties (Grays Harbor, Pacific and Wahkiakum) and held essentially flat in others (Clallam, Lewis and Mason).

So why the uptick? The answer lies in highly timber-dependent Skamania County where the economic pain is palpable. Its February jobless rate was 34.9 percent - up more than five percentage points for the month and nearly 10 percentage points for the year. Suffice it to say, some pain is evident across the board as all timber-dependent counties stayed at double-digit unemployment in February.

Unemployment Rates by Geographic Areas
State of Washington

Areas	Feb 1992	Jan 1992	Feb 1991
Washington State Total	8.3%	8.2%	6.6%
Metropolitan Areas	7.5%	7.4%	5.9%
Log & Lumber Areas	13.3%	13.0%	10.9%
All Western WA Areas	7.4%	7.2%	5.7%
All Eastern WA Areas	11.5%	11.6%	10.1%

Source: Employment Security Department

INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS

Hong Kong Sings Boeing's Song ...

Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airways announced that it would order eleven 777s at $1.7 billion with options on eleven more for a total potential deal worth $3.4 billion.

The order was especially sweet for Boeing coming in the midst of a terrible year for the airline industry. Thus far, eight airlines have ordered 99 of the new-generation 777s and placed options for an additional 86. The first of these 777s is expected to roll off the line in May 1995 for delivery to United Airlines.

... While Boeing Warns Workers

The Boeing Company issued separation notices to 2,123 employees in April in accordance with federal regulations requiring 60 days advanced notice. The reduction is being forced by defense cuts and slowdowns in 737 production. Over the course of 1992, the aerospace giant expects to reduce its payroll 8,000 worldwide, 6,500 of which are here in the Puget Sound region. Of the 6,300 workers receiving warnings to date, only 450 have actually been laid off.

Boeing workers are not the only ones hurt by defense cuts and production slowdown. Local aerospace subcontractors are feeling the pinch as well. Everett-based All Star Aerospace, which makes machined aerospace parts, issued warning notices to all 120 workers at its Shelton plant in order to consolidate operations at its Everett plant.

(Lack of) Salmon Scuttles Season

Those along the Washington coast, Strait of Juan de Fuca and Puget Sound who depend either directly or indirectly on salmon for their livelihoods are reeling following the federal Pacific Fisheries Management Council's ban on salmon fishing in the Strait and limits on the coastal coho salmon catch. The council voted to restrict non-Indian fishing of coho off the coasts and Washington and Oregon to half of last year's catch. The outright ban on the Strait extends across October and September of this year, and threatens to adversely impact commercial and recreational fishers, Native Americans and non-Native Americans, charter boat and resort operators and other indirect beneficiaries. The impact is potentially staggering when one considers the enormous losses brought to bear during last year's comparatively minor 13-day ban. As a result, affected parties will likely migrate to waters off Canada and Alaska. The

council's action is subject to approval by the U.S. Secretary of Commerce.

Columbia Basin's Water Woes

Farmers in the Columbia Basin and elsewhere in the state, may face the most severe water shortage in 15 years. This is the culmination of many different factors. First and foremost, of course, is the extremely mild winter and spring. Rain and the snowpack are both well below normal for the year. But there is also more competition for scarce water resources than ever before. Farmer-irrigators are no longer the more or less sole users of Columbia Basin water. The fast-growing residential populace of central Washington consumes a growing share, as does the fast-developing food processing industry. The latest "wild card" is salmon. River drawdowns, if fully embraced to enhance the species, will mean sacrifice on the part of all parties as millions of cubic feet of water are diverted from other uses and released to flush smolt downstream.

Winter Wheat Wields Wealth

Further east in Washington's wheat country, though, farmers are enjoying some of the best economic times in nearly a decade as the price of their product has nearly doubled over the past year. This economic surge is expected to sustain itself over the near term thanks to fast-growing export markets and Russian grain credit guarantees. Grain prices will eventually start down, though, as the high price attracts more foreign growers into the world market. But for now, life is relatively good.

Mountain of Metals Not Worth Hill of Beans

Falling prices of gold and other precious metals have induced closure of several mines in northeastern Washington. Fluctuating metal prices and their impact on the mining industry are nothing new. However, they did serve to effectively end the regional enthusiasm generated when Canadian mining concerns began setting up ventures here last year.

There is, however, guarded optimism that at least some metal prices will soon reach the threshold necessary to justify reopening the mines. At this point, the most favorable outlooks are for zinc and gold.

Banking on BIGNESS

The merger that saw the marriage of Seafirst and Security Pacific Bank of Washington through their Bank of America and Security Pacific Bank parents is signed, sealed and being delivered. The physical transfer of authority took place the weekend of April 25-26 as 82 Security Pacific branches were transformed into Seafirst branches. When the dust settles, employment losses stemming from the merger should end up at around 500, according to Seafirst Chairman Luke Helms. Meanwhile, no immediate layoffs are expected following the purchase of 86 Security Pacific branches by Key Bank Corp (in eastern Washington) and West One Bancorp (in western Washington).

Attention is now turning to the merger-acquisition of Tacoma-based Puget Sound Bancorp by New York-based KeyCorp. The acquisition is expected to result in the elimination of Puget Sound Bancorp's Tacoma-based computer center by folding its operations into KeyCorp's Tigard, Oregon center. Also expected is the dissolution of two dozen or so overlapping branches in Washington. Potential employment losses stemming from these actions has not yet been determined.

On the Road Again

With spring upon us and summer just around the corner, road construction and upgrading is moving into full swing - much to the chagrin of commuters and other travelers. Construction employment, however, should expand as more than 150 Department of Transportation projects get underway this spring, many continuing through the end of fall. Among the biggest undertakings: replacing sunken sections of I-90 across Lake Washington, adding carpool lanes to I-405 through Bellevue and Renton, and widening US 101 from four lanes to six lanes in the Olympia area.

NATIONAL INDICATORS

Up, Up... Down... Up...

As reported last month, final estimates for the fourth quarter of 1991 show that real national Gross Domestic Product increased at an annual rate of 0.4 percent (a downward revision from the preliminary estimate of 0.8 percent).

The composite index of leading indicators continued to reflect signs of recovery as it climbed slightly more than one basis point (0.8 percent) in February. This is the second consecutive month the index has shown positive movement.

Hail To The Fed

The Federal Reserve cut its discount rate (the rate charged to member banks) a quarter point from 4 percent to 3.75 percent. The move was an attempt to prop up the economy. The move is not, however, expected to see commercial lenders lower their prime rates below the current 6.5 percent.

Factory orders rose for the third straight month in February, providing added evidence of a gradual manufacturing rebound. New orders edged up 0.7 percent over the month. A closer look reveals that the consumer goods and materials side was up a strong 2.2 percent, but was checked by a 0.3 percent dip on the durable goods side. Unfilled durable goods orders, in a further positive development, continued to fall over the month.

Housing Awakens From The Dead

New private home building permits, a relative proxy for housing starts, climbed nearly four-and-a-half basis points (or 5 percent) in February. This was the third consecutive monthly expansion posted by the measure.

The money supply (M2) expanded by more than 12 basis points in February. This was the first sign of relatively healthy expansion following a combined expansion of only six-and-a-half basis points over the three prior months.

Residual effects of a looser money supply emerged in the Consumer Price Index, All Urban Consumers. The CPI-U climbed 0.4 percent in February. The Producer Price Index, for its part, edged up a scant 0.2 percent in February. In-

deed, the PPI's core rate of inflation (excluding food and energy) increased an even lesser 0.1 percent. Despite the higher than anticipated rise in the CPI and because of the barely perceptible gain in the PPI, most observers consider inflation to be well under control.

Employment Firming, But Still Mixed

On the employment front, national nonfarm employment rose about 164,000 in February following a 149,000 contraction the previous month. Average weekly hours worked in manufacturing increased to 41.1 hours after also contracting the prior month. Average weekly unemployment insurance (UI) claims, a leading indicator, continued to decline in February. However, the average duration of unemployment, a lagging indicator, inched upward for the seventh consecutive month to 17 weeks (from 16.4 in January).

SPECIAL INTEREST ITEM

Seasons Change... NOT

Beginning this month, Washington's unemployment rate will be posted on both unadjusted and seasonally-adjusted bases where previously only the former was issued. There is a rational explanation for the adjustment.

Washington is subject to sharp fluctuations of economic activity due to seasonal factors such as weather, farm production and harvests, tourism and recreation volume, and opening and closing of schools. Each occurs in a regular sequence during the year. Seasonal adjustment removes the normal fluctuation from the underlying economic trend, thus providing a clearer picture of real month-to-month movement. The national data are always reported in this manner.

No Change For The Counties

Sub-state or county unemployment rates will continue to be reported only on an unadjusted basis. All comparisons between the counties and state will be limited to a raw reporting of numbers. Due care must be exercised to assure that only like rates are compared locally.

There is no change in the procedure for collecting and calculating the inputs to the monthly estimate of Washington's labor force and total number of employment and unemployed. A mathematical factor is simply applied to the final results, which essentially identify the amount of change that would be expected over the month based on past experience. Any movement above or below that average is considered attributable to cyclical and other non-seasonal influences acting on the economy.

Consumer Price Index
(All Items, Urban Consumers, 1982-1984 = 100)

	Indexes			% Change From	
U.S. City Average	Feb 92	Jan 92	Feb 91	Jan 92	Feb 91
	138.6	138.1	134.8	0.4%	2.8%
Seattle†	Jul-Dec 1991	Jan-Jun 1991	Jul-Dec 1990	Jan-Jun 1991	Jul-Dec 1990
	135.2	133.0	129.4	1.7%	4.5%

†The index for Seattle reflects prices in King, Pierce, and Snohomish Counties.
Source: U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics

Prepared by Gary Kamimura, Economic Analyst

Nonagricultural Wage & Salary Workers in Washington State, Place of Work[1]

In Thousands, Not Seasonally Adjusted

Industry	Feb 1992 (Prel)	Jan 1992 (Rev)	Feb 1991 (Rev)	Jan 1991 (Rev)	Numeric Change: Jan 1992 to Feb 1992	Numeric Change: Feb 1991 to Feb 1992
Total Nonagricultural Wage & Salary	2,156.6	2,149.3	2,112.3	2,103.4	7.3	44.3
Manufacturing	342.0	343.2	346.8	346.5	-1.2	-4.8
Durable Goods	245.4	246.6	250.7	251.6	-1.2	-5.3
Lumber & Wood Products	35.4	35.3	35.4	35.3	0.1	0.0
Logging	8.4	8.5	8.1	7.8	-0.1	0.3
Sawmills & Plywood	23.8	23.7	23.7	24.0	0.1	0.1
Furniture & Fixtures	3.7	3.7	3.7	3.7	0.0	0.0
Stone, Clay & Glass	7.2	7.2	7.3	7.1	0.0	-0.1
Primary Metals	11.8	12.0	12.5	12.6	-0.2	-0.7
Aluminum	8.4	8.4	8.8	8.8	0.0	-0.4
Fabricated Metals	11.5	11.5	11.7	12.0	0.0	-0.2
Industrial Machinery & Equipment	18.9	18.9	20.3	20.3	0.0	-1.4
Computer & Office Equipment	6.1	6.1	6.5	6.5	0.0	-0.4
Electronic & Other Electrical Equipment	11.1	11.2	11.5	11.3	-0.1	-0.4
Transportation Equipment	125.3	126.2	128.2	129.1	-0.9	-2.9
Aircraft & Parts	113.8	114.3	115.1	115.6	-0.5	-1.3
Instruments & Related	13.6	13.6	13.6	13.6	0.0	0.0
Miscellaneous Manufacturing	6.9	7.0	6.5	6.6	-0.1	0.4
Nondurable Goods[3]	96.6	96.6	96.1	94.9	0.0	0.5
Food & Kindred Products	34.7	34.6	35.0	34.2	0.1	-0.3
Preserved Fruits & Vegetables	11.2	11.1	11.4	10.8	0.1	-0.2
Textiles, Apparel & Leather	8.1	8.1	7.6	7.4	0.0	0.5
Paper & Allied Products	17.7	17.8	17.8	17.6	-0.1	-0.1
Printing & Publishing	22.2	22.3	22.3	22.2	-0.1	-0.1
Chemicals & Allied Products[3]	5.5	5.4	5.1	5.0	0.1	0.4
Petroleum, Coal, Plastics	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.5	0.0	0.1
Mining & Quarrying	3.7	3.8	3.5	3.6	-0.1	0.2
Construction	107.7	107.8	106.9	104.8	-0.1	0.8
General Building Contractors	32.9	32.6	32.7	32.1	0.3	0.2
Heavy Construction, except Buildings	14.0	14.3	13.8	13.0	-0.3	0.2
Special Trade Contractors	60.8	60.8	60.4	59.7	0.0	0.4
Transportation, Communications & Utilities	111.7	111.8	108.8	110.0	-0.1	2.9
Transportation	76.9	76.7	74.0	75.3	0.2	2.9
Trucking & Warehousing	29.9	29.8	28.9	30.0	0.1	1.0
Water Transportation	10.0	9.9	8.8	9.0	0.1	1.2
Transportation by Air	15.9	15.9	15.4	15.5	0.0	0.5
Communications	24.6	24.9	24.9	24.9	-0.3	-0.3
Electric, Gas & Sanitary Services	10.2	10.2	9.9	9.8	0.0	0.3
Wholesale & Retail Trade	511.0	515.2	504.7	509.1	-4.2	6.3
Wholesale Trade	127.3	126.5	126.3	126.2	0.8	1.0
Retail Trade	383.7	388.7	378.4	382.9	-5.0	5.3
General Merchandise	37.6	40.1	37.9	40.4	-2.5	-0.3
Food Stores	63.7	63.8	61.1	61.6	-0.1	2.6
Eating & Drinking	138.0	138.0	135.7	134.8	0.0	2.3
Finance, Insurance & Real Estate	115.3	114.9	114.6	114.2	0.4	0.7
Finance	51.3	50.8	50.7	50.6	0.5	0.6
Services	539.2	535.3	517.2	511.3	3.9	22.0
Hotels & Lodging	24.9	24.7	23.2	23.1	0.2	1.7
Personal Services	21.2	20.7	21.6	21.1	0.5	-0.4
Business Services	82.9	82.9	80.5	80.1	0.0	2.4
Health Services	160.2	159.9	151.0	150.1	0.3	9.2
Educational Services	25.8	24.8	24.5	23.3	1.0	1.3
Social Services[3]	40.9	41.0	38.8	38.2	-0.1	2.1
Eng. & Management Services[3]	57.0	56.6	54.9	54.1	0.4	2.1
Government	426.0	417.3	409.8	403.9	8.7	16.2
Federal	72.0	71.9	71.2	71.4	0.1	0.8
State	124.9	122.9	121.6	119.1	2.0	3.3
State Education	65.8	63.8	64.5	62.6	2.0	1.3
Local	229.1	222.5	217.0	213.4	6.6	12.1
Local Education	122.4	120.4	118.6	116.1	2.0	3.8
Workers in Labor-Management Disputes	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

[1]Excludes proprietors, self-employed, members of armed forces, and private household employees. Includes all full- and part-time wage and salary workers receiving pay during the pay period including the 12th of the month.

[2]Workers excluded because of involvement in labor-management disputes.

[3]Data not comparable with previous years because of end-of-year industry code changes.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis

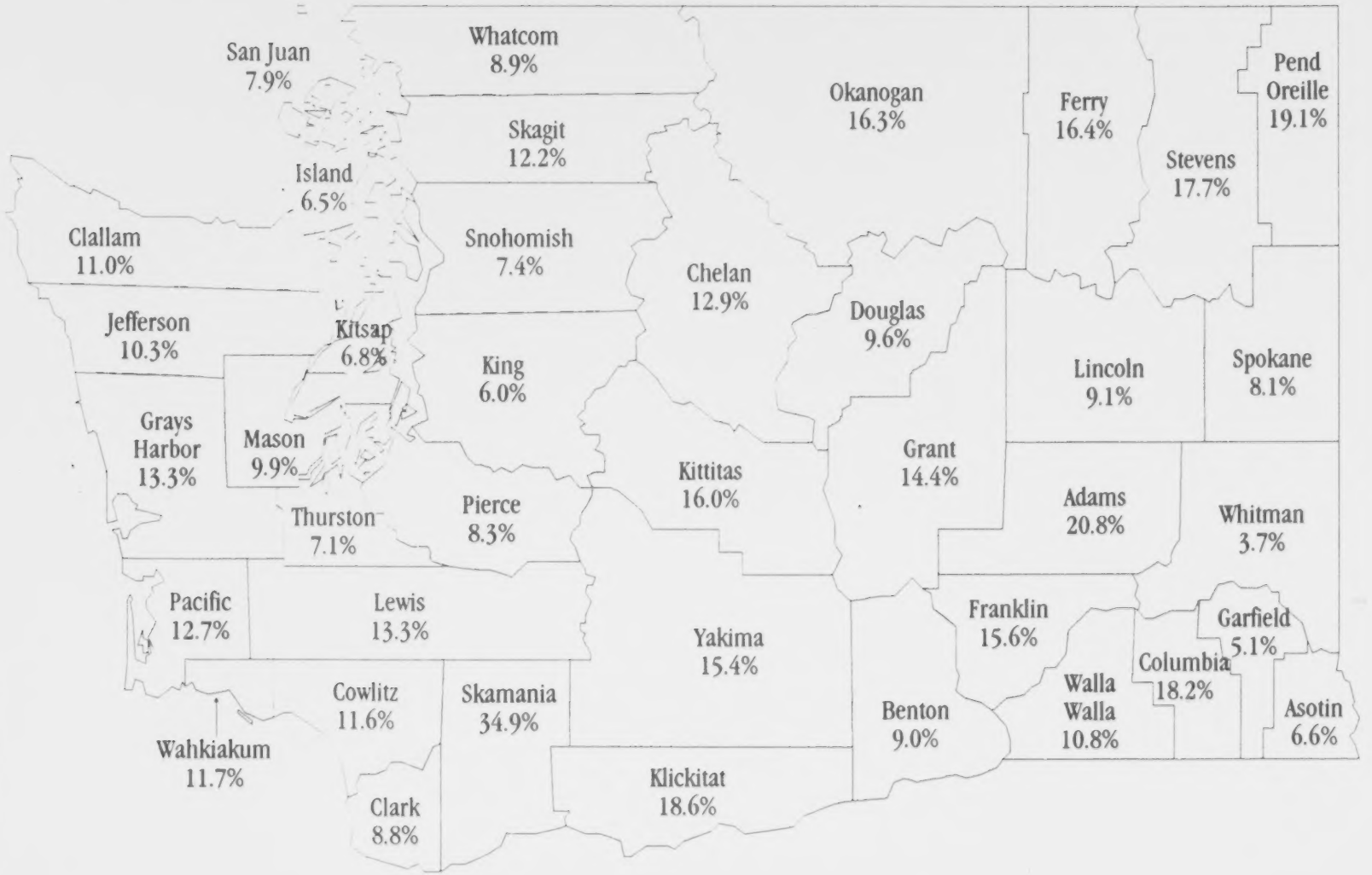
Resident Labor Force and Employment in Washington State and Labor Market Areas

Date: 3/31/92
Benchmark: 1991

Not Seasonally Adjusted	February 1992 Preliminary†				January 1992 Revised†				February 1991 Revised†			
	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate	Labor Force	Employ-ment	Unemploy-ment	Unemploy-ment Rate
Washington State Total	2,534,100	2,323,500	210,600	8.3	2,514,600	2,309,300	205,300	8.2	2,480,300	2,316,000	164,300	6.6
Bellingham MSA	70,700	64,400	6,300	8.9	70,300	64,300	6,000	8.5	68,500	63,600	4,900	7.2
Bremerton MSA	85,900	80,100	5,800	6.8	85,200	79,700	5,500	6.5	83,000	78,800	4,200	5.1
Olympia MSA	88,200	81,900	6,300	7.1	86,900	81,000	5,900	6.8	84,200	79,300	4,900	5.8
Seattle PMSA	1,129,300	1,058,500	70,800	6.3	1,123,500	1,054,900	68,600	6.1	1,118,700	1,066,600	52,100	4.7
King County ‡	889,500	836,300	53,200	6.0	884,500	833,500	51,000	5.8	881,300	842,700	38,600	4.4
Snohomish County ‡	239,900	222,200	17,700	7.4	239,000	221,400	17,600	7.4	237,400	223,900	13,500	5.7
Spokane MSA	177,300	162,900	14,400	8.1	175,800	161,700	14,100	8.0	173,100	160,900	12,200	7.0
Tacoma PMSA	261,400	239,800	21,600	8.3	260,000	239,400	20,600	7.9	254,100	237,300	16,800	6.6
Tri-Cities MSA	75,200	67,300	7,900	10.5	74,300	66,500	7,800	10.5	72,200	65,400	6,800	9.4
Benton County ‡	57,900	52,700	5,200	9.0	57,000	52,100	4,900	8.6	55,200	51,200	4,000	7.2
Franklin County ‡	17,300	14,600	2,700	15.6	17,400	14,500	2,900	16.7	16,900	14,200	2,700	16.0
Vancouver PMSA	129,900	118,500	11,400	8.8	128,900	117,800	11,100	8.6	125,800	117,800	8,000	6.4
Yakima MSA	99,100	83,800	15,300	15.4	97,600	81,200	16,400	16.8	94,400	81,100	13,300	14.1
Adams	7,410	5,870	1,540	20.8	7,470	5,830	1,640	22.0	7,150	6,010	1,140	15.9
Asotin	9,680	9,040	640	6.6	9,590	9,000	590	6.2	9,300	8,650	650	7.0
Clallam	24,640	21,920	2,720	11.0	24,330	21,700	2,630	10.8	24,000	21,830	2,170	9.0
Columbia	1,590	1,300	290	18.2	1,540	1,270	270	17.5	1,400	1,150	250	17.9
Cowlitz	39,310	34,740	4,570	11.6	39,000	34,680	4,320	11.1	39,510	36,540	2,970	7.5
Ferry	3,300	2,760	540	16.4	3,240	2,820	420	13.0	3,050	2,630	420	13.8
Garfield	980	930	50	5.1	970	910	60	6.2	920	870	50	5.4
Grant	27,790	23,800	3,990	14.4	27,310	23,240	4,070	14.9	26,850	23,290	3,560	13.3
Grays Harbor	26,440	22,920	3,520	13.3	26,510	22,960	3,550	13.4	27,850	24,680	3,170	11.4
Island	22,770	21,300	1,470	6.5	22,710	21,350	1,360	6.0	22,400	21,270	1,130	5.0
Jefferson	8,930	8,010	920	10.3	8,760	7,890	870	9.9	8,560	7,950	610	7.1
Kittitas	13,620	11,440	2,180	16.0	13,240	11,220	2,020	15.3	12,920	11,400	1,520	11.8
Klickitat	7,890	6,420	1,470	18.6	7,600	6,290	1,310	17.2	7,450	6,090	1,360	18.3
Lewis	26,460	22,930	3,530	13.3	26,180	22,720	3,460	13.2	25,450	22,610	2,840	11.2
Lincoln	4,070	3,700	370	9.1	4,000	3,640	360	9.0	4,130	3,820	310	7.5
Mason	15,060	13,570	1,490	9.9	14,850	13,390	1,460	9.8	13,970	12,630	1,340	9.6
Okanogan	17,600	14,740	2,860	16.3	17,310	14,500	2,810	16.2	16,900	14,330	2,570	15.2
Pacific	8,090	7,060	1,030	12.7	8,000	6,950	1,050	13.1	7,620	6,780	840	11.0
Pend Oreille	3,460	2,800	660	19.1	3,410	2,810	600	17.6	3,210	2,640	570	17.8
San Juan	5,850	5,390	460	7.9	5,940	5,470	470	7.9	5,720	5,470	250	4.4
Skagit	41,560	36,470	5,090	12.2	41,230	36,180	5,050	12.2	38,970	35,130	3,840	9.9
Skamania	2,380	1,550	830	34.9	2,350	1,650	700	29.8	2,320	1,740	580	25.0
Stevens	12,000	9,880	2,120	17.7	11,940	10,080	1,860	15.6	11,950	10,300	1,650	13.8
Wahkiakum	1,200	1,060	140	11.7	1,180	1,040	140	11.9	1,130	1,020	110	9.7
Walla Walla	23,320	20,810	2,510	10.8	23,100	20,550	2,550	11.0	22,610	20,430	2,180	9.6
Wenatchee Labor Area	42,690	37,650	5,040	11.8	41,950	36,920	5,030	12.0	41,660	37,150	4,510	10.8
Chelan County ‡	28,650	24,960	3,690	12.9	28,070	24,480	3,590	12.8	27,800	24,630	3,170	11.4
Douglas County ‡	14,040	12,690	1,350	9.6	13,890	12,450	1,440	10.4	13,860	12,520	1,340	9.7
Whitman	18,880	18,190	690	3.7	18,300	17,680	620	3.4	19,590	19,080	510	2.6

†Official U.S. Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics data. ‡Estimates are determined by using the Population/Claims Share disaggregation methodology.
Note: Detail may not add due to rounding.

February 1992 Unemployment Rates
State of Washington = 8.3%



Estimated Average Hours and Earnings of Production Workers in Manufacturing and of Nonsupervisory Workers in Nonmanufacturing Activities, Washington State

	Preliminary November Production Workers & Nonsupervisory Workers	Average Weekly Earnings			Average Weekly Hours			Average Hourly Earnings		
		Feb 92	Jan 92	Feb 91	Feb 92	Jan 92	Feb 91	Feb 92	Jan 92	Feb 91
Total Manufacturing Industries†	198,951	$544.24	$535.89	$522.84	39.9	39.7	39.4	$13.64	$13.50	$13.27
Selected Manufacturing Industries										
Lumber and Wood Products	29,104	$481.92	$455.00	$446.59	40.6	38.3	38.8	$11.87	$11.88	$11.51
Primary Metal Industries	9,316	$580.84	$606.77	$563.79	41.4	42.7	42.2	$14.03	$14.21	$13.36
Fabricated Metal Products	9,144	$515.75	$500.39	$502.21	39.4	38.7	39.7	$13.09	$12.93	$12.65
Machinery	18,664	$430.56	$426.09	$420.62	39.0	38.7	39.2	$11.04	$11.01	$10.73
Food and Kindred Products	24,373	$400.22	$403.48	$346.56	37.9	38.5	34.9	$10.56	$10.48	$9.93
Chemical and Allied Products	2,122	$615.71	$637.30	$753.14	41.8	42.6	45.7	$14.73	$14.96	$16.48
Transportation Equipment	53,035	$722.18	$726.13	$680.99	41.6	41.9	41.6	$17.36	$17.33	$16.37
Selected Nonmanufacturing Industries										
Construction	81,172	$677.47	$676.75	$669.75	37.0	36.9	37.5	$18.31	$18.34	$17.86
Wholesale and Retail Trade (Includes eating and drinking establishments)	445,228	$304.00	$294.33	$256.67	31.7	30.5	29.2	$9.59	$9.65	$8.79

†Average hourly earnings for all manufacturing production workers reported in this table do not exactly reflect the official US Bureau of Labor Statistics definition of "wages." While these data still constitute a valid economic indicator series, they should not be used at this time for the negotiation of contracts whose monetary provisions may depend upon official US Bureau of Labor Statistics hourly earning data.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch
April 24, 1992

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE
(BENCHMARK: MARCH 1991) 1/ 2/

	ANNUAL AVERAGE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1991 3/													
Civilian Labor Force	2,497,000	2,476,600	2,480,300	2,474,000	2,486,600	2,486,800	2,547,800	2,533,300	2,495,000	2,497,200	2,511,500	2,476,600	2,498,300
Total Employment	2,340,000	2,305,200	2,316,000	2,310,300	2,331,900	2,340,700	2,392,600	2,379,600	2,351,900	2,352,600	2,361,000	2,315,700	2,322,400
Total Unemployment	157,000	171,400	164,300	163,700	154,700	146,100	155,200	153,700	143,100	144,600	150,500	160,900	175,900
Percent of Labor Force	6.3	6.9	6.6	6.6	6.2	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.8	6.0	6.5	7.0
1990 3/													
Civilian Labor Force	2,503,000	2,480,300	2,514,700	2,520,600	2,510,400	2,497,200	2,537,400	2,529,300	2,514,100	2,461,500	2,468,400	2,475,300	2,527,000
Total Employment	2,381,000	2,326,900	2,361,400	2,387,500	2,391,200	2,383,800	2,431,300	2,417,400	2,408,600	2,364,800	2,361,300	2,349,200	2,388,600
Total Unemployment	122,000	153,400	153,300	133,100	119,200	113,400	106,100	111,900	105,500	96,700	107,100	126,100	138,400
Percent of Labor Force	4.9	6.2	6.1	5.3	4.7	4.5	4.2	4.4	4.2	3.9	4.3	5.1	5.5
1989 3/													
Civilian Labor Force	2,451,000	2,373,800	2,370,600	2,406,100	2,437,700	2,482,400	2,473,700	2,469,800	2,486,100	2,451,900	2,478,000	2,468,500	2,513,100
Total Employment	2,300,000	2,204,000	2,199,400	2,241,200	2,283,000	2,334,900	2,324,200	2,317,300	2,339,700	2,312,900	2,344,600	2,327,500	2,371,300
Total Unemployment	151,000	169,800	171,200	164,900	154,700	147,500	149,500	152,500	146,400	139,000	133,400	141,000	141,800
Percent of Labor Force	6.2	7.2	7.2	6.9	6.3	5.9	6.0	6.2	5.9	5.7	5.4	5.7	5.6
1988													
Civilian Labor Force	2,316,000	2,266,300	2,280,600	2,280,000	2,280,600	2,292,000	2,295,100	2,339,300	2,328,900	2,338,000	2,370,900	2,348,600	2,371,700
Total Employment	2,173,000	2,099,900	2,116,100	2,122,800	2,141,800	2,157,100	2,154,600	2,195,100	2,190,200	2,203,800	2,244,900	2,214,300	2,235,400
Total Unemployment	143,000	166,400	164,500	157,200	138,800	134,900	140,500	144,200	138,700	134,200	126,000	134,300	136,300
Percent of Labor Force	6.2	7.3	7.2	6.9	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.2	6.0	5.7	5.3	5.7	5.7
1987													
Civilian Labor Force	2,258,000	2,199,000	2,184,600	2,211,800	2,204,900	2,238,800	2,278,800	2,310,700	2,307,400	2,282,500	2,299,500	2,279,800	2,298,300
Total Employment	2,087,000	1,989,700	1,974,400	2,012,100	2,022,700	2,068,700	2,119,500	2,149,000	2,153,800	2,134,100	2,148,900	2,128,300	2,142,900
Total Unemployment	171,000	209,300	210,200	199,700	182,200	170,100	159,300	161,700	153,600	148,400	150,600	151,500	155,400
Percent of Labor Force	7.6	9.5	9.6	9.0	8.3	7.6	7.0	7.0	6.7	6.5	6.5	6.6	6.8
1986													
Civilian Labor Force	2,198,000	2,109,900	2,130,100	2,162,400	2,183,000	2,197,700	2,218,500	2,303,900	2,259,900	2,213,000	2,217,500	2,191,400	2,188,600
Total Employment	2,018,000	1,923,800	1,930,700	1,966,000	2,000,700	2,027,500	2,044,900	2,110,000	2,084,800	2,057,600	2,053,500	2,011,700	2,004,700
Total Unemployment	180,000	186,100	199,400	196,400	182,300	170,200	173,600	193,900	175,100	155,400	164,000	179,700	183,900
Percent of Labor Force	8.2	8.8	9.4	9.1	8.4	7.7	7.8	8.4	7.7	7.0	7.4	8.2	8.4
1985													
Civilian Labor Force	2,091,000	2,039,600	2,042,100	2,049,400	2,069,800	2,086,900	2,100,500	2,143,200	2,134,800	2,105,000	2,118,300	2,109,000	2,093,400
Total Employment	1,921,000	1,839,700	1,848,300	1,866,900	1,900,600	1,916,500	1,926,800	1,970,900	1,974,400	1,955,700	1,969,400	1,952,600	1,930,200
Total Unemployment	170,000	199,900	193,800	182,500	169,200	170,400	173,700	172,300	160,400	149,300	148,900	156,400	163,200
Percent of Labor Force	8.1	9.8	9.5	8.9	8.2	8.2	8.3	8.0	7.5	7.1	7.0	7.4	7.8
1984													
Civilian Labor Force	2,051,000	2,022,100	2,036,800	2,041,100	2,033,700	2,041,700	2,070,700	2,109,100	2,084,200	2,048,200	2,055,400	2,032,400	2,036,600
Total Employment	1,857,000	1,786,700	1,807,500	1,824,900	1,831,700	1,849,500	1,879,700	1,916,300	1,909,200	1,880,100	1,886,300	1,857,300	1,854,900
Total Unemployment	194,000	235,400	229,300	216,200	202,000	192,200	191,000	192,800	175,000	168,100	169,100	175,100	181,700
Percent of Labor Force	9.5	11.6	11.3	10.6	9.9	9.4	9.2	9.1	8.4	8.2	8.2	8.6	8.9

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
2/ Monthly data for all years were revised using new Bureau of Labor Statistics methodology introduced in January 1989.
3/ Data for 1989, 1990 and 1991 were revised in March 1992 incorporating updated information on industry employment.
Note: Detail may not add nor divide due to rounding.

Washington State
Employment Security Department
Labor Market and Economic Analysis Branch
April 3, 1992

RESIDENT CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE AND EMPLOYMENT IN WASHINGTON STATE
SEASONALLY ADJUSTED
(BENCHMARK: MARCH 1991) 1/ 2/

	ANNUAL AVERAGE	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
1991 3/													
Civilian Labor Force	2,497,100	2,500,300	2,492,700	2,484,400	2,488,900	2,489,700	2,519,600	2,498,900	2,480,100	2,512,500	2,508,300	2,496,600	2,493,400
Total Employment	2,340,100	2,351,800	2,351,300	2,334,900	2,335,600	2,337,000	2,358,600	2,341,300	2,326,500	2,350,500	2,341,700	2,330,600	2,321,400
Total Unemployment	157,000	148,500	141,400	149,500	153,300	152,700	161,000	157,600	153,600	162,000	166,600	166,000	172,000
Percent of Labor Force	6.3	5.9	5.7	6.0	6.2	6.1	6.4	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.6	6.6	6.9
1990 3/													
Civilian Labor Force	2,503,100	2,504,000	2,529,600	2,531,400	2,512,700	2,499,600	2,511,600	2,494,000	2,497,900	2,475,300	2,464,500	2,495,000	2,522,200
Total Employment	2,381,100	2,373,000	2,399,100	2,412,700	2,394,700	2,379,700	2,399,600	2,378,400	2,382,500	2,362,000	2,341,100	2,363,600	2,387,300
Total Unemployment	122,000	131,000	130,500	118,700	118,000	119,900	112,000	115,600	115,400	113,300	123,400	131,400	134,900
Percent of Labor Force	4.9	5.2	5.2	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	5.0	5.3	5.3
1989 3/													
Civilian Labor Force	2,451,200	2,398,700	2,388,500	2,417,200	2,440,700	2,484,200	2,451,000	2,432,500	2,466,700	2,463,100	2,473,200	2,487,800	2,510,500
Total Employment	2,300,200	2,250,400	2,240,300	2,267,000	2,287,000	2,330,300	2,295,300	2,276,900	2,311,000	2,308,300	2,323,100	2,341,400	2,371,400
Total Unemployment	151,000	148,300	148,200	150,200	153,700	153,900	155,700	155,600	155,700	154,800	150,100	146,400	139,100
Percent of Labor Force	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.3	6.2	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6.1	5.9	5.5
1988 3/													
Civilian Labor Force	2,316,100	2,291,000	2,302,800	2,292,300	2,284,000	2,292,800	2,276,000	2,298,400	2,304,500	2,345,600	2,365,900	2,367,400	2,372,900
Total Employment	2,173,200	2,145,900	2,161,500	2,150,200	2,146,300	2,151,900	2,129,100	2,151,900	2,157,200	2,196,100	2,222,900	2,227,300	2,238,200
Total Unemployment	142,900	145,100	141,300	142,100	137,700	140,900	146,900	146,500	147,300	149,500	143,000	140,100	134,700
Percent of Labor Force	6.2	6.3	6.1	6.2	6.0	6.1	6.5	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.0	5.9	5.7
1987													
Civilian Labor Force	2,258,100	2,224,900	2,209,600	2,225,400	2,210,200	2,238,600	2,262,400	2,265,000	2,278,000	2,285,700	2,294,100	2,298,300	2,305,200
Total Employment	2,087,200	2,037,000	2,022,900	2,041,000	2,029,300	2,063,000	2,097,100	2,102,100	2,115,800	2,121,800	2,126,100	2,140,400	2,150,400
Total Unemployment	170,900	187,900	186,700	184,400	180,900	175,600	165,300	162,900	162,200	163,900	168,000	157,900	154,800
Percent of Labor Force	7.6	8.4	8.4	8.3	8.2	7.8	7.3	7.2	7.1	7.2	7.3	6.9	6.7
1986													
Civilian Labor Force	2,198,200	2,136,700	2,157,400	2,177,900	2,190,900	2,198,000	2,202,700	2,252,900	2,226,100	2,212,200	2,211,700	2,209,500	2,201,700
Total Employment	2,018,300	1,972,300	1,981,400	1,996,900	2,010,400	2,023,100	2,023,800	2,058,900	2,042,000	2,040,100	2,030,200	2,022,500	2,017,500
Total Unemployment	179,900	164,400	176,000	181,000	180,500	174,900	178,900	194,000	184,100	172,100	181,500	187,000	184,200
Percent of Labor Force	8.2	7.7	8.2	8.3	8.2	8.0	8.1	8.6	8.3	7.8	8.2	8.5	8.4
1985													
Civilian Labor Force	2,091,200	2,068,600	2,069,800	2,066,100	2,080,800	2,089,000	2,084,300	2,087,300	2,097,900	2,100,900	2,112,200	2,126,200	2,111,300
Total Employment	1,921,300	1,890,500	1,899,200	1,898,600	1,914,200	1,914,600	1,906,000	1,916,200	1,928,100	1,933,400	1,945,300	1,961,900	1,947,300
Total Unemployment	169,900	178,100	170,600	167,500	166,600	174,400	178,300	171,100	169,800	167,500	166,900	164,300	164,000
Percent of Labor Force	8.1	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.0	8.3	8.6	8.2	8.1	8.0	7.9	7.7	7.8
1984													
Civilian Labor Force	2,051,200	2,052,700	2,065,100	2,059,200	2,047,000	2,045,700	2,054,100	2,049,000	2,045,400	2,042,300	2,049,900	2,048,400	2,056,000
Total Employment	1,857,200	1,839,100	1,858,100	1,857,100	1,848,300	1,850,300	1,859,100	1,858,400	1,860,900	1,854,500	1,862,200	1,865,200	1,873,300
Total Unemployment	194,000	213,600	207,000	202,100	198,700	195,400	195,000	190,600	184,500	187,800	187,700	183,200	182,700
Percent of Labor Force	9.5	10.4	10.0	9.8	9.7	9.6	9.5	9.3	9.0	9.2	9.2	8.9	8.9

1/ Prepared in cooperation with the Bureau of Labor Statistics.
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